



EUROPEAN UNION



Interreg



Slovakia-Austria
European Regional Development Fund

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

Annual Implementation Report 2022



A citizen's summary of the contents of the Annual Report has been made public and uploaded as an annex to the Annual Implementation Report. The Annual Report 2022 of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Austria Cooperation Programme has been prepared pursuant to Annex X of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/207. The report is intended to give an overview of the activities that were undertaken in the frame of the programming process, focusing on the year 2022. Regarding its structure, the Interreg V-A SK-AT Cooperation Programme addresses five investment priorities (IP) under four priority axes (PA). In addition, a fifth priority axis, Technical Assistance, has been introduced.

This summary reports on Interreg V-A SK-AT activities in 2022. It presents key points and highlights from the year.

COMPOSITION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

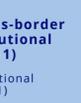
priority axes and investment priorities

Interreg V-A SK-AT Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 ("Interreg Slovakia-Austria")
Improve frameworks and policies and deliver concrete solutions



PA1 Contributing to a smart cross-border region (TO 1)

1.1 Strengthen collaboration in the innovation system (IP 1b)
1.2 Improve higher education and lifelong learning (IP 1b)



PA2 Fostering natural and cultural heritage and biodiversity (TO 6)

2.1 Foster natural and cultural heritage valorisation (IP 6c)
2.2 Foster restoration and management of ecological corridors (IP 6d)



PA 3 Supporting sustainable transport solutions (TO 7)

3.1 Support environmentally friendly transport solutions (IP 7c)



PA 4 Strengthening cross-border governance and institutional cooperation (TO 11)

4.1 Strengthen institutional cooperation (IP 11)
4.2 Strengthen the cooperation between educational institutions (IP 11)



PA 5 Technical Assistance

5.1 Efficient & smooth implementation of the cooperation programme

The programme area consists of:

the Austrian Länder:

- Wien
- Niederösterreich
- Burgenland (only Nordburgenland and Mittelburgenland)

the Slovak regions:

- Bratislavský kraj
- Trnavský kraj



FUNDING OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

The total funding of the Programme represents EUR 89,3 mn, out of which EUR 75,9 mn from ERDF

Priority axis	Thematic objective	EU support (€)	National sources (€)	Total financial sources (€)
Contributing to a smart crossborder-region	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	19,7mn	3,5 mn	23,1 mn
Fostering natural and cultural heritage and biodiversity	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	27,8 mn	4,9 mn	32,7 mn
Supporting sustainable transport solutions	Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key infrastructure networks	9,7 mn	1,7 mn	11,4 mn
Strengthening cross-border governance and institutional cooperation	Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities, and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting cooperation	14,1 mn	2,5 mn	16,7 mn
Technical Assistance	Technical Assistance	4,6 mn	0,8 mn	5,4 mn
Total		75,9 mn	13,4 mn	89,3 mn

8

closed rounds

project proposals submitted (TA projects included)

85

53

contracted projects

million from ERDF

79,12

104,25

% of the programme allocation

OUR PROJECTS IN 2022

After the 8th assessment round (closed on 30th November 2020) no more round followed in 2022

29

projects completed by December 2022

10

financially closed projects

examples

VYSOMARCH

Pedestrian and cycling bridge Marchegg - Vysoká pri Morave



Partners:

Bratislava self-governing region (BSK);
Land Niederösterreich

Priority axis: 3

Investment priority: 3.1

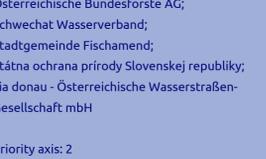
Budget: 5,9 mil. EUR

EU Funding (ERDF): 5 mil. EUR

Duration: June 2017 - October 2022

Construction of the cycle and pedestrian bridge over the Morava River in a sustainable way contributes to the mutual convergence of the region. The Morava River remains a natural barrier in the cross-border region due to the lack of bridges. As a consequence, the inhabitants of the region have a reduced possibility to use sustainable transport and also a reduced accessibility to daily commuting destinations. It is the Vysomarch project that offers suitable solutions which also contribute to strengthening regional cohesion. By building the cycle and pedestrian bridge between Vysoká pri Morave and Marchegg, which are important regional and cross-border transport hubs, the commuting time to the adjacent railway stations and public transport stops in the border region will be significantly reduced for people living on both sides of the Morava River. Cycling in the adjacent villages is becoming increasingly important in the daily movement of the population. The construction of such a bridge is a direct response to current developments in the field of public transport, while at the same time creating a sustainable and environmentally friendly link between the two countries.

Protection and development of river habitat connectivity in the Alpine-Carpathian corridor area



Partners:

Nationalpark Donau-Auen GmbH;
Bratislavské regionálne ochrannárske združenie;
Österreichische Bundesforste AG;
Schwechat Wasserverband;
Stadtgemeinde Fischamend;
Štátna ochrana prírody Slovenskej republiky;
via donau - Österreichische Wasserstraßen-Gesellschaft mbH

Priority axis: 2

Investment priority: 2.2

Budget: 2,1 mil. EUR

EU Funding (ERDF): 1,8 mil. EUR

Duration: September 2017 - August 2022

The Alpine Carpathian River Corridor project supports the environmental protection of aquatic organisms in the Austrian-Slovak border region. It is the natural corridors that provide the link between the protected areas between Vienna and Bratislava, and at the same time make a significant contribution to nature conservation, serve for recreational purposes and improve the quality of life in the area. To this end, concepts for the protection and care of cross-border watercourses are developed within the framework of which various revitalisation measures are taken by experts. This will ensure that nature and its biodiversity can regenerate better. Thanks also to the co-operation with municipalities, schools and involved citizens, there is a growing awareness of the border region. The mutual exchange of experience which takes place throughout the region helps to maintain the area in its present form.

We are preparing new programming period 2021-2027

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Co-funded by the European Union

Slovakia - Austria

The draft document of the Interreg Slovakia-Austria Programme for the new programming period was submitted to the European Commission on 1 April 2022. After a few rounds of completion, the European commission adopted the Programme on 5 December 2022.

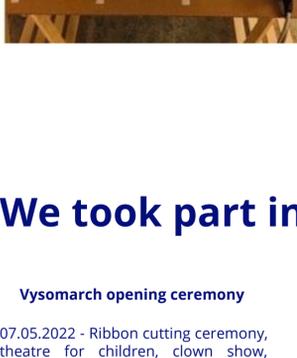
The 1st meeting of the Monitoring committee for the Interreg Programme Slovakia-Austria 2021-2027 was held on 7 December 2022 in Marchegg.



During 2022, the Programme bodies also had 14 Task Force (TF) meetings, out of which 9 were held in the "Programming group" format (TF members + external experts), as well as numerous technical meetings with the relevant stakeholders (including representatives of MA, RB's, JS, national, regional authorities, EC and relevant Ministries) related to preparation of the 2021-2027 Programme.

COMMUNICATION

The MA/JS continuously informed the target groups about the stages of the implementation, provided useful information, downloadable documents and project news via the programme website (www.sk-at.eu) and through Facebook (www.facebook.com/interregskat.eu). In addition, the Keep database (www.keep.eu) with project information has been regularly updated. All communication activities were affected by the restrictions of Covid-19 pandemic situation, therefore the MA/JS prepared online seminars and consultations via Webex, MS Teams, Zoom, etc. 16 newsletters were sent out to the subscribed readers in 2022.

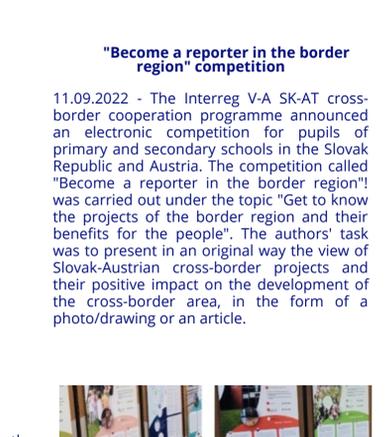


As for the Annual Event, the Programme took the opportunity to be part of the Lower Austrian Regional Exhibition, which was held from 26.03.2022 to 13.11.2022 in the premises of the Marchegg Castle, and to present its results. Posters and videos dedicated to the Programme and the 12 successful projects could be viewed free of charge by visitors at the entrance to the exhibition.

We took part in interesting events

Vysomarch opening ceremony

07.05.2022 - Ribbon cutting ceremony, theatre for children, clown show, performances of singing groups and brass bands were only a part of the official opening ceremony of the newly built cycle and pedestrian bridge over the Morava River. Of course, cyclists, but also art and nature lovers had lots to see there. There were bike rides from various places from Bratislava and surroundings. We, representatives of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Austria Cross-border Cooperation Programme, also took part in the event.



"Become a reporter in the border region" competition

11.09.2022 - The Interreg V-A SK-AT cross-border cooperation programme announced an electronic competition for pupils of primary and secondary schools in the Slovak Republic and Austria. The competition called "Become a reporter in the border region" was carried out under the topic "Get to know the projects of the border region and their benefits for the people". The authors' task was to present in an original way the view of Slovak-Austrian cross-border projects and their positive impact on the development of the cross-border area, in the form of a photo/drawing or an article.



www.sk-at.eu